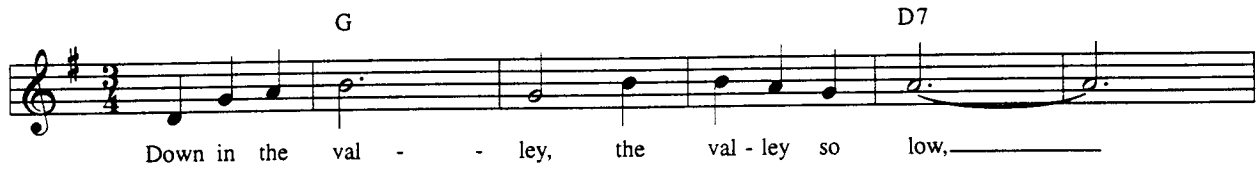


Down In The Valley



SINGING

This song requires long smooth phrases while singing. Practice singing the long phrases without taking a breath at the commas in the middle of the line.

*Down in the valley, the valley so low.
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow,
Hear the wind blow, dear, hear the wind blow.
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.*



This song moves in groups of three beats. Feel the meter of three, 1,2,3,1,2,3,1,2,3 etc., by having students do a body percussion of “pat-clap-snap.” Sing the song while doing the body percussion, placing the pat on the strong beat (beat #1).

PLAYING

Play a two chord (G and D7) accompaniment on a ukulele, autoharp, guitar, or with an electronic keyboard style/rhythm. Help the students “hear” where the chord needs to change from the I (G) to the V7 (D7). Sing the song in the Key of C, using boomwhackers or tone bars to spell out the C chord C-E-G, and the G7 chord G-B-D-F (may leave out the D). Have students play the beat in chords while singing the song, changing the chord when necessary. Try putting the C of the C chord on the strong beat, and the E and G on the two weaker beats. The G chord would put the B on the strong beat, and the F and G on the two weaker beats (D may be played, too). This is an oom-pah-pah kind of accompaniment, in a meter of three.

CREATING

A song in threes (3/4) is a waltz. Learn the basic waltz step, with or without partners. Figure out different ways, in small groups or with partners, to move to the 3 beat pattern. Make the strong beat (beat #1) a big movement, and the weak beats (#2 and #3) smaller movements. Perform the different group’s movements for the class while singing the song.

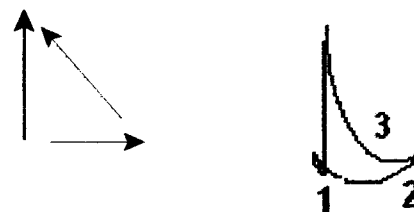
LISTENING

Listen to a recording of any waltz. Do “pat-clap-snap” while listening, or do a basic waltz step. Suggestions: “Blue Danube Waltz” by Strauss, “Saturday Night Waltz” from Copland’s *Rodeo*, “Minuet in G” by Bach, “Eine Klleine Nachtmusik” Minuet by Mozart, “My Country ‘Tis of Thee,” “The Star Spangled Banner” & others. Try skating on thin paper plates in three-four time to “Skater’s Waltz”, or “Oh, How Lovely is the Evening.” Skate forward ONLY on the strong beat (beat # 1) using alternating feet. Keep the feet flat against the floor while skating.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION – History, Poetry

This is an American folk love song. (There is some reference to Birmingham jail in one version of this song.) Write a story about who you think is singing this song, and to whom.

Learn the 3/4 conducting pattern.



Down-Out- Up

1 2 3

DOWN on the strong beat #1: **downbeat.**

Down in the Valley